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stall of F. H. Hosmer & Co. a female Yellow-crowned Night Heron, in full nuptial plumage, and in a remarkably fresh state of preservation, which had been received on the previous Saturday in a shipment of birds from Yarmouth, N. S.

On looking the matter up, I found that it had been shipped by Mr. Howard Smith of Hawks Point, Cape Sable Island, and had been killed somewhere in that vicinity by Mr. R. C. Maxwell of Lower Clark's Harbor, Shelburne County, Cape Sable Island. I had a letter from Mr. Maxwell in which he told me of his killing the bird, and another from Mr. Smith, in which he writes, among other things, under date of April 21, as follows:—

"Since receiving your letter, I have learned through a friend of mine, Mr. I. K. Doane, lighthouse keeper at this place, that two other specimens of this bird have been captured this spring in our neighboring county, viz. Yarmouth, and are now mounted and on exhibition in the store of Benjamin Doane, taxidermist, Yarmouth, N. S."

It seems from this interesting information that at least three birds of this species had wandered this far north during the spring migration.—FRED. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

**The Authority for the Name *Geotrygon chrysia*.**—In the Eighth Supplement to the Check-List, Auk, Jan., 1897, p. 126, the authority for the name *Geotrygon chrysia* is credited to Bonaparte, Consp. Av. II, 1854, 72, where it only occurs in the synonymy of *Geotrygon martinica*. Bonaparte, Comptes Rendus, XL, 1855, 100, says that he has in his esteemed correspondence "the name *Geotrygon chrysia*, a species still more brilliant and coming from the same countries as *montana*." This he considers to be the same as *Geotrygon martinica* and says that M. Castelnau, following the records of the Museum, finds it reported from Florida. It seems to me that this description is not sufficient to fix the name, and that the proper authority for *Geotrygon chrysia* should be Salvadori, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., XXI, 1893, 571.—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Black Vulture (*Catharista urubu*) in Virginia.**—The A. O. U. Check-List gives the regular range of the Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*) as reaching its most northern point in North Carolina. I have now to record that this vulture occurs regularly in Nansemond County, Virginia, where it is a not uncommon summer resident. Here it is known as the 'South Carolina Buzzard,' and it is usual to find it in company with Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), from which its smaller size and its quicker, more broken flight distinguish it at a glance. On the edge of the Dismal Swamp, along Cohoon Creek, near Suffolk, Nansemond Co., Virginia, May 19, 1902, it was noted as quite abundant, seven individuals being seen upon one occasion. The regular range of this species is thus extended northward to Nansemond County in Virginia, probably including

the contiguous counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne, and thus extending to the northern limit of the Austroriparian subprovince.—JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Washington, D. C.*

**The Proper Name for the Western Sparrow Hawk.**—Since Dr. E. A. Mearns, U. S. A., published his review of the American Sparrow Hawks in 'The Auk' for July, 1892, pp. 263-265, the Sparrow Hawk of the western United States, and the west coast of Mexico to Mazatlan, has been commonly known to ornithologists as *Falco sparverius deserticolus* Mearns. Our work in Mexico has shown that this bird ranges along the entire Pacific coast of Mexico as well as over most of the remainder of that country. The Western Sparrow Hawk appears to be the only form found along the west coast of Mexico (exclusive of Lower California) north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of Birds, U. S. National Museum, recently handed me volume XX of the Lévêque edition of Buffon's works with the remark that it contained descriptions of some Mexican birds by Lesson. In looking through these I found under the heading of *Tinnunculus phalæna* Lesson, a careful description of male sparrow hawks from San Blas [Tepic] and Acapulco [Guerrero], Mexico. These places are within the ordinary range of the Western Sparrow Hawk, to which Lesson's description unquestionably refers. This being the case, the name *Falco sparverius deserticolus* Mearns becomes a synonym of *Falco sparverius phalæna*, (Lesson) in Buffon, Œuvres, Vol. XX, Lévêque ed. 1847 (suppl.), pp. 178-179.—E. W. NELSON, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**The Barn Owl on Long Island.**—From Doctor Braislin's 'Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island,' published in the July number of 'The Auk', I am led to infer that there has heretofore been some doubt about the presence of the Barn Owl on our island. It may be of interest to Doctor Braislin to know that a pair of these owls formerly inhabited the steeple of the Congregational Church on the corner of Lincoln Street and Browne Avenue, Flushing. For many years I knew of their presence there, but did not divulge the secret for fear that they might be driven away by the church people. No doubt they would still be there had not the church been overhauled and new glass put into the steeple sash where the birds were wont to enter. The owls shared the steeple with a colony of pigeons and brought muskrats and other small mammals to their young, although there were fat young squabs within reach.

Mr. Langdon Gibson, brother of Chas. Dana Gibson the artist, was also aware of the presence of the Barn Owls in the Congregational spire. Gibson was then a lad and he climbed up to the nest securing *two young owls*, if I remember aright; at any rate, he brought me one which I kept for some time and from it I made a number of drawings and still have